

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MULTI-ENTERPRISE  
OPTIMIZATION USING FLEXIBLE TRADE CONTRACTS

5      ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10      A method of multi-enterprise optimization at a buyer computer (20) includes  
accessing a forecasted demand for at least one item and generating one or more proposed  
flexible trade contracts (500, 530, 560) using the forecasted demand for the item. The  
proposed flexible trade contract (500, 530, 560) is communicated to a seller computer  
(40) and subsequently executed after acceptance of the proposed flexible trade contract  
(500, 530, 560) at the seller computer (40) to create a flexible trade contract (500, 530,  
560). Each proposed flexible trade contract (500, 530, 560) may be a forward contract  
(500), an option contract (530), or a flexible forward contract (560).